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## Physician Assistant Committee Amends Delegation of Services Agreement Regulation

The Delegation of Services Agreement (DSA) is the document used by a supervising physician to identify what types of medical services his/her physician assistant (PA) is allowed to perform; how these services are performed; how patient charts will be reviewed and countersigned; and what type of medications the PA is permitted to prescribe on behalf of that physician. Earlier this year, the Physician Assistant Committee (PAC) of the Medical Board of California made the following four specific changes to the regulations:

1. A PA may provide medical services delegated in writing by the supervising physician. The DSA must clarify exactly what the PA can or cannot do. The physician, however, remains ultimately responsible for the patients cared for by the PA. The PA may only provide services that he/she is competent to perform, that are consistent with his/her education, training and experience, and are delegated in the DSA by the supervising physician.
2. More than one supervising physician may sign the DSA but only if each supervising physician has delegated the same medical services. A PA may provide care pursuant to more than one DSA in the same medical office/clinic if the duties allowed are different.
3. The PAC may require proof or demonstration of competence from any PA for any medical services performed.
4. If a PA determines that a task, procedure, or diagnostic problem exceeds his/her level of competence, the PA must either consult with a physician or refer the case to a physician.

For more information about PA supervision, visit the Physicians Assistant Committee's website at [http://www.pac.ca.gov/supervising\\_physicians/supphysician\\_fags.shtml](http://www.pac.ca.gov/supervising_physicians/supphysician_fags.shtml).

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